



THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR.

Vol. XXII. Dec. 22, 1886. No. 51.



Ring out! ye glorious Christmas bells,
Peal loud, and sweet, and clear,
And let your music, as it swells,
Proclaim the peace-time here.

Ring out! and while you peal, sweet bells,
Oh! let us humbly bring,
Those gifts, whose presence ever tells
Each one to anthems sing.

Ring out! Earth's lessons we must learn,
As on we walk, each day;
And Christmas hours, with each return,
Mark mile-stones on our way.—*Ex.*

It is said that there is only a very small part of a drop of poison in the sting of a bee. No matter how small the part, however, the *departure* of the person stung is sure. The bee "gets there" all-o-same—but it parts with its sting.

A Weekly Feast is presented to every reader, and the following letter from B. H. Holt, of Adel, Iowa, is a sample of hundreds just received from the guests who have been regaled at our weekly banquets during the past year:

I like the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for the many good things which it presents each week. I always look for it with the assurance of finding a feast therein, and I am never disappointed. May its editor long live to calm the troubled waves of discussion, and to keep all its correspondents in good fellowship, is the earnest wish of a constant reader.

The November Weather in England has been open and fine. A writer in the *London Journal of Horticulture* gives the following facts about the bees there during the past month:

Up till Nov. 26 the weather has been open and fine. The bees carried pollen up until that date, when the winter's fog commenced. Some colonies have increased in number of bees greatly during the month. The calm, sunny weather, permitting the bees to fly, and the young ones to clear themselves of all incumbrances as late as the 25th, will counteract other evils which, had the weather been untoward, were sure to have followed so much late breeding. The temperature of the month has not only been mild, but remarkable for the equality of the day and night temperature. For some nights and days together there were only 4° difference in the day and night temperature.

"Here we have an Objection to the Union," says the *Canadian Bee Journal*, and then it proceeds to give the reason for objecting in this language:

Bee-keepers who have ill-feelings towards their neighbors have a good chance to vent it. They join the Union and then call on their neighbors to "come on," feeling that the Union will assist them, and their costs will be light, while the defendant will have to foot his own bill. Thus they can "stick" their neighbor for a lot of costs, and themselves escape almost "scot free." We are therefore in favor of a voluntary and *impromptu* defence by bee-keepers generally, each giving what they are able to in the defence of "right and justice," when they satisfy themselves that the case calls for such a defence.

The writer appears to have been sadly "mixed up," when framing the above paragraph. The bee-keeper who joins the "Union," and says to his neighbor "come on," is the defendant, if that neighbor does "come on" with his lawsuit; but the item calls the "neighbor" the "defendant," and says he "will have to foot his own bill!"—Say plaintiff, brother—just to make sense!

The writer is also in error concerning the "National Bee-Keepers' Union." It does not work on the plan mentioned in the above editorial extract. It only *assists* in the defense of the pursuit of bee-keeping, after investigating the cause of the trouble. If it is but a personal quarrel, the Union does not interfere with it. If, however, there is a principle involved, or the pursuit is "at stake," the Union *helps* to defend the case by paying something like one-half of the costs, while the "real defendant" pays the other half. It does not by any means let the members of the Union "stick their neighbor for a lot of costs, and themselves escape almost scot-free," as stated in the item quoted above.

In Switzerland, as well as throughout Europe (says Mons. E. Bertrand, of Nyon, Switz.), the past season has been very poor for honey. The first honey-flow was almost nothing; the second, where there was any, was better, but that honey is of a dark color and second grade.

Our friend, Mr. Bertrand, was elected an honorary member of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society, at Indianapolis, and acknowledges the honor in a very polite letter to the editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, who proposed the honor, and the following to the President, Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Ills.:

NYON, SWITZERLAND, Nov. 26, 1886.

Sir:—I see by the report of the proceedings of the convention held at Indianapolis, that I was elected an honorary member of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society.

Allow me to thank you and the association for the honor which you have conferred upon me. I feel highly flattered in being an honorary member of the leading society in America.

I have the honor to remain, sir, yours truly,
ED. BERTRAND.

Water is essential for bees in cellars, and quite often it has restored bees to their normal condition, after a "roaring" in the hive is heard, which is caused by excessive thirst and prolonged low temperature.

German Bee-Papers.—On page 707 we commented on the assertion made at the Indianapolis Convention that "we have a greater number of apicultural papers" than "all the rest of the world combined." We then stated that "Germany alone" has "more than all the rest of the world combined." The *British Bee Journal*, for Dec. 2, not only affirms our remark, but gives a list of 23 German bee-papers devoted exclusively to bee-keeping; not including any that combine bee-culture with something else, of which there are a large number. Here is the list:

1. Bienenzeitung. Editor, Fr. Wilh. Vogel. Price M 6.50.
2. Deutsche illustrierte Bienenzeitung. Editor, C. J. H. Gravenhorst. Price M 4.
3. Schweizerische Bienenzeitung. Editor, Pastor Jecker, Olten. Price M 4.
4. Der elsassisch-lothringische Bienenzeitung. Editors, J. Dennler, Enzheim, & C. Zwilling, Mundolsheim. Price M 3.20.
5. Centralblatt. Editor, G. Lehzen. Price M 3.
6. Die Biene. Editor, Lehrer Oswald, Darmstadt. Price M 3.
7. Deutscher Bienenfreund. Editor, L. Krancher. Price M 3.
8. Preussische Bienenzeitung. Editor, J. G. Kanitz. Price M 2.50.
9. Bienenblatt. Editor, J. B. Kellen. Price M 2.40.
10. Der schlesische Imker. Editor, J. F. Benda. Price M 2.40.
11. Illustriertes allgemeines deutsches Bienenorgan. Editor, M. Felgentreu. Price M 2.
12. Oesterreichisch-ungarische Bienenzeitung. Editor, P. Colestin Schachinger. Price M 2.
13. Schlesische Bienenzeitung. Editor, G. Seeliger. Price M 2.
14. Die Biene und ihre Zucht. Editor, Rud. Kern. Price M 2.
15. Biene. Editor, Pastor Hergenrother, Hesselbach. Price M 1.00.
16. Die Bienenpflege. Editor, Dr. Wilh. Ebel. Price M 1.25.
17. Münchener Bienenzeitung. Editor, Dr. Stautner, Munich. Price M 1.20.
18. Pfälzer Bienenzeitung. Editor, Lehrer Sauter, Rodenbach. Price M 1.
19. Blätter für Bienenzucht. Editor, S. Baumann. Price M 1.
20. Illustrierte Bienenzeitung. Editor, G. Adolphson, Zurich.
21. Leipziger Bienenzeitung.
22. Blätter für Bienenzucht, Ungarn. Editor, J. Kriesch.
23. Bienenfreund von Niederbayern.

Premium Worth Having.—The New York *World* and the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL (both weekly) will be sent for one year to any address in North America for \$1.00. And in addition PRESENT to every such CLUB SUBSCRIBER a "History of the United States," containing 320 pages and 22 fine engravings, bound in leather and gilt.

This "History" will be sent FREE by express at the subscriber's expense; or will be mailed for 10 cents extra to any place in the United States or Canada.

It is arranged chronologically by years, from 1492 to 1885. Every event is narrated in the order of its date. These are not confined, as in other works, to political matters, but embrace every branch of human action.

This premium is worth the whole of the money sent for both periodicals, and should induce thousands to subscribe, and thus get two unrivalled weeklies for nothing.

Catalogues for 1887.—Those on our desk are from

Dr. G. L. Tinker, New Philadelphia, O.
Thos. G. Newman & Son, Chicago, Ills.



AND

Replies by Prominent Apiarists.

[It is useless to ask for answers to Queries in this Department in less time than one month. They have to wait their turn, be put in type, and sent in about a dozen at a time to each of those who answer them; get them returned, and then find space for them in the JOURNAL. If you are in a "hurry" for replies, do not ask for them to be inserted here.—ED.]

Cleansing Flights in Winter.

Query, No. 350.—Some advise giving bees a cleansing flight during the winter; others, put them into a cave or cellar and let them severely alone until it is time to put them on the summer stands again. Which is best? I, for one, would like to know, as I have no anxiety to carry 120 colonies out of the cave and back again if it does no good.—IOWA.

Let them alone.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

I do not carry mine out until they are taken out to stay.—C. C. MILLER.

If they remained quiet I would leave them alone until well settled weather in the spring.—H. D. CUTTING.

If the bees are quiet in their quarters, and show no uneasiness, I should let them alone.—J. P. H. BROWN.

Leave them in until spring. Giving them a flight causes them to breed, and they are more restless afterwards.—DADANT & SON.

I should leave them severely alone. If some of the colonies were diseased so as to be likely to die before spring, I might give them a flight. If the disease was caused by impure stores, it would be beneficial. I have thought that a flight sometimes made matters worse.—C. W. DAYTON.

From what I have read, I conclude that if the general conditions are right, viz: an equable temperature ranging from 40° to 50°, Fahr., in a perfectly dark cellar, no cleansing flight is necessary.—J. E. POND, JR.

Never move them unless they become uneasy and soil the hive. If a cellar is just right there will be no need of any removal from Nov. 1 to April 1. We have not removed our bees for years during winter, and they winter splendidly.—A. J. COOK.

Owing to the dampness of the atmosphere in this climate, in the winter months, I doubt if it would be possible to winter bees at all without the opportunity for flight in the air two or three times during the winter months. But in a higher latitude where the air is comparatively dry—a condition of things favorable to healthful exhalation from the bodies of the bees—I doubt not but the case would be different. Those who have tried it can tell best.—G. W. DEMAREE.

After practicing both I have come to the conclusion that only harm

comes from such a flight, say nothing of the labor. Where bees are wintered on the summer stands the case is different.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I prefer the latter plan—put them in early and take them out late. Long confinement does no harm, if other conditions are right. In this I think Mr. Eugene Secor is right, and Mr. G. M. Doolittle in error.—JAMES HEDDON.

Bees in winter quarters require no flight until they can fly to some purpose. We often have pollen gathered here early in March, when they may be put out and returned after cold sets in again. In February, on a suitable day, I would set out 1 or 2 colonies, and observe if they needed a cleansing flight. If doing finely they often discharge nothing; hence a flight would be of no benefit until there was food to gather. On Dec. 11 we had a fine day, and I put out 2 colonies that were carried in Nov. 13. They had been nicely hibernating, but I wanted to see the effect. After four days they had not again assumed their former state, being very easily disturbed. I would say, then, not to put bees out before February, at the earliest, and then not unless diseased.—G. L. TINKER.

Closed-Top Sections.

Query, No. 351.—A bee-keeper in Iowa prefers closed-top sections; but in tiering-up he uses open-top sections. Is it an advantage to have the first case and the one on top made thus? and will the combs (of course they cannot be inverted) be as straight with closed-top sections?—Augusta, Iowa.

I see no advantage in closed-top sections anywhere.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

It is a disadvantage to have two sorts of sections on the same hive.—J. P. H. BROWN.

We would prefer open-top sections for every purpose.—DADANT & SON.

The combs will be just as straight with closed-top as open, if you use full sheets of foundation or separators. I prefer an open-top section, as I want to "tier-up."—H. D. CUTTING.

I use open-top sections, and can see no advantage in those having closed tops.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I should not expect combs to be quite as straight with closed-top sections, but I have never tried them.—C. C. MILLER.

I should always prefer the open-top sections. This permits tiering-up, and enables one to see just what is going on.—A. J. COOK.

Closed-top sections are no advantage, as they can be made closer with a cloth spread over the top of the case or rack. The open-top sections are necessary to the "tiering-up system," and the latter is necessary to the best results.—G. W. DEMAREE.

Never use both kinds on the same hive, or in the same apiary; in fact, never use closed-top sections at all. They are not good about getting straight combs, tiering-up, handling

in and out of shipping-crates, seeing the condition of the super, and so bad that they are almost totally abandoned.—JAMES HEDDON.

The combs will be built as straight with closed-top sections as with open-top ones, but the former have no advantages over the latter. I prefer a thin board with a bee-space beneath to cover the sections. Many use enameled cloth.—G. L. TINKER.

I do not think there is any advantage in using closed-top sections in any case. Open-top sections can be easily closed, but closed-top sections cannot be conveniently used in "tiering-up." I prefer the open-all-around sections.—J. E. POND, JR.

Wintering Bees Under a Kitchen.

Query, No. 352.—Do you think that it would injure the bees to put them in a cellar under a kitchen where there is lots of noise?—F. H., Ills.

Not unless they are to be jarred.—DADANT & SON.

No, not if so placed that they are not jarred.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

No. I have wintered bees in just such a place for several winters.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

I do not think that the noise would injure them, provided no vibratory or jarring motion was communicated to the bees.—J. P. H. BROWN.

The warmth of the kitchen fire above the bees would more than counterbalance any harm from the noise.—G. L. TINKER.

It would not injure them, but might rouse them somewhat at times.—C. W. DAYTON.

If all right otherwise, I doubt if the noise would do much harm.—C. C. MILLER.

No, not if other conditions are all right.—JAMES HEDDON.

Bees must be quiet to winter well. Unless you can keep them so in the cellar, I would advise leaving them on the summer stands well packed.—H. D. CUTTING.

I know nothing practically of cellar wintering of bees, but from what I know about the effects of "noise" on bees, I should have no fears that my bees would be injured from that cause.—G. W. DEMAREE.

I should prefer "under a kitchen" to any other place. This gives a chance for ventilation. The noise will do no harm. I know a man who has wintered his bees very successfully, and he has some loud boys, I tell you! None too loud; boys that make no noise will make men of like character.—A. J. COOK.

Practically, I know nothing of the matter, as I have always wintered my bees on the summer stands, but if the cellar is all right otherwise, I do not think the noise will affect the bees at all. It is all theory on my part, but the theory is based on my reading, and general observation.—J. E. POND, JR.



Explanatory.—The figures BEFORE the names indicate the number of years that the person has kept bees. Those AFTER, show the number of colonies the writer had in the previous spring and fall, or fall and spring, as the time of the year may require.

This mark ⊙ indicates that the apiarist is located near the center of the State named; ⊕ north of the center; ⊖ south; ⊙ east; ⊙ west; and this ⊕ northeast; ⊖ northwest; ⊙ southeast; and ⊖ southwest of the center of the State mentioned.

For the American Bee Journal.

The Michigan State Convention.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The first thing on the programme of the 2d day was the election of officers, which resulted as follows: President, Geo. E. Hilton, of Fremont; 1st Vice-President, R. L. Taylor, of Lapeer; 2nd Vice-President, O. J. Hetherington, East Saginaw; 3rd Vice-President, John Rey, East Saginaw; Sec., H. D. Cutting; Treas., M. H. Hunt.

It was decided that the next annual meeting be held in East Saginaw, and Prof. Cook, W. Z. Hutchinson, and H. D. Cutting were appointed a committee to confer with the State Horticultural Society to determine if it will be advisable for both societies to meet at the same place, and during the same week, but upon different days. Many persons wish to attend both meetings, and this arrangement would be a great saving to them in railroad fares.

BASSWOOD VS. LINDEN.

Dr. A. B. Mason read from the *Canadian Bee Journal* the article on page 167, of the current volume, headed "Linden Honey," in which Mr. S. T. Pettit, President of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, reported that the committee took the grounds that Canadian "basswood" honey was superior to the United States article, and recommended that the Canadians adopt the name "linden" for their honey, and thus distinguish it from the inferior "basswood" honey produced across the line. The Doctor thought it perfectly right to make Canadian articles distinctively Canadian, but it should not be done by casting unwarranted stigmas upon our productions. We should not try to elevate ourselves by pulling down others.

Mr. Macpherson, of Canada, evidently felt that the laugh was at his expense, but he bore it good humoredly, and said he did not think there was any intention to cast a slur upon American honey, and he doubted not that an apology would be forthcoming.

Dr. Mason then read an essay on

FEEDING BEES FOR WINTER.

He works to secure the greatest possible amount of white honey as

surplus, depending upon the fall honey-flow to furnish stores for winter. The fall flow of honey is sometimes a failure, and he then resorts to the feeding of sugar syrup. He feeds by raising the front end of the hive and pouring the syrup in upon the bottom-board. He found it necessary to do this work at night, to avoid trouble from robber bees. In feeding 6 pounds of syrup, he found there was a loss of $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

Mr. Macpherson—Mr. D. A. Jones once fed in this manner, and the work was done at night to avoid the robber bees. He has discarded this plan for feeders.

Dr. Mason—I got a sample of the Heddon feeder, and it is a fine thing, but it is rather expensive.

R. L. Taylor—I object to feeding by pouring the feed upon the bottom-board, as it necessitates fast bottom-boards, and even then a hive may leak.

Dr. Mason—What is your objection to a fast bottom-board?

R. L. Taylor—I wish it loose so that I can clean off the dead bees in the spring; I can regulate the size of the entrance by moving the hive forward or back, and I do not wish any bottom-board upon the hives when they are in the cellar.

W. Z. Hutchinson—How do you get the bees off the bottom-board when you carry them into the cellar?

R. L. Taylor—There are seldom many upon it; and I raise the cover and brush them off into the hive.

A. I. Root—When robber bees are troublesome, we do a good share of our work with bees at night by the light of a lantern.

R. L. Taylor—I have tried working as late in the day as possible, and the darker it became the more troublesome were the bees, until it was well nigh impossible to handle them.

W. Z. Hutchinson—Have you ever tried handling them by an artificial light?

R. L. Taylor—I never have.

A. M. Gander—If any one expects to be obliged to feed, why would it not be best to save frames of honey for the purpose?

Prof. Cook—This brings up the question of the advisability of securing all the white honey we can in sections, and then feeding sugar for winter stores.

Geo. E. Hilton—I should not dare to use sugar even for wintering, as I care too much for my reputation.

Prof. Cook—I do not think any one need have any fear in regard to his reputation. There should be no attempt at concealment. The neighbors should be allowed, yes, invited, to come and see what was done with the sugar, and the whole matter explained to them. Further than this, if it is decided that sugar is a safer food for winter (and I think it is), and that it can be used for this purpose at a profit, bee-keepers will use it, and we may talk about "reputation" as much as we please. The question is, will it pay? If we can get all our white honey in nice shape for market in sections, and the brood-nest com-

paratively empty, and all we will have to do is to put on feeders and feed, it will probably pay.

R. L. Taylor—It will probably pay one to do so, if everybody else does not go at it; if they do, I do not know whether it will or not. We cannot make it pay to feed bees when they must build their own combs; but when the combs are built, then it will pay. It is a mistake to suppose that sugar stored in the brood-nest for winter stores will be carried into the supers in the next honey harvest. We frequently have a flow of dark honey in the fall. Is any one ever troubled by this dark honey being carried into the sections the next season?

Geo. E. Hilton—I have been troubled in exactly this manner.

W. Z. Hutchinson—How large are the brood-nests of your hives?

Geo. E. Hilton—Eight Langstroth frames.

Dr. Mason—I have no fears of losing "reputation" by feeding bees sugar for winter. The first year I fed sugar to my bees I bought it of neighboring grocers, and took pains to inform them and my neighbors just what I wanted it for, and why I used it. There was some "talk" that year, but it has all died away, and I hear nothing of it now.

W. Z. Hutchinson—I have fed sugar to bees now for years, and made no secret of it. Sometimes one neighbor and sometimes another hauls the sugar from the depot. The whole neighborhood knows that I feed sugar to the bees, and when and why I do so, and no one buys any less honey.

A. I. Root—In view of the prevalence of foul brood, it is hardly the thing to advise the buying of honey to feed bees when they need feeding. It is better to buy sugar.

F. H. Macpherson—When we feed sugar syrup we lose just about the weight of the water added. We do not think it profitable to extract the honey and feed sugar, but in producing comb honey it probably pays.

W. Z. Hutchinson—In preparing the syrup I use Florence lamp stoves.

R. L. Taylor—I use a gasoline stove.

The next topic discussed was that of

BEES AND GRAPES.

Prof. Cook—We can safely say that bees do not injure sound grapes. In the fall, when they are over-ripe, and the weather is just right, the grapes crack and then the bees make trouble. Which is practical, to shut up the bees or to protect the grapes? or is neither? In some places grapes can be raised only by bagging them, because of the rot. This bagging greatly improves the grapes and furnishes a protection against bees as well as rot.

P. M. Puhl—It is not practical to shut up the bees, as the grape harvest lasts too long; and grapes are too cheap (one cent per pound) to allow the expense of bagging. I have tried confining bees during the time of gathering grapes, and it cannot be done. The bees are breeding, and it is hot weather, and they must have water and flights in the open air. I

have put them in the cellar, and kept the temperature at 45°, and it is no better; it is not the time of the year when bees can be confined—they are not ready for it, and will worry themselves to death. I am sorry that Mr. McLain said what he did in his report about confining them; it is impractical.

Dr. Mason—It is best to keep on the right side of our neighbors, then they will put up with some inconvenience from the bees.

A. I. Root—Mr. L. C. Root once told me how careful he was not to allow his bees to annoy his neighbors. When his neighbor was ready to make hay in a lot adjoining Mr. Root's bees, Mr. Root offered, yes, insisted upon doing the work next to the bees, for fear that the neighbor or his horses might be stung. When neighbors live like this there is little danger of any fault being found with the bees.

R. L. Taylor—I agree with what Dr. Mason and Mr. Root have said. I fear that no good can come of legislation. I also fear that the Bee-Keepers' Union only stirs up things, i. e., it "backs up" bee-keepers and makes them less careful. Many of these lawsuits grow out of some old feud, and a member of the Union may be "spoiling for a fight" with some neighbor, and takes advantage of the "backing" furnished by the Union to lead some enemy into a lawsuit. Were it not for the Union he might be less belligerent.

H. D. Cutting—I have no faith in legislation in this matter. It will simply be a question of "the survival of the fittest."

Prof. Cook—I firmly believe that this question must be eventually settled by law, and that, too, in the highest courts; and here we shall need the Union. When the question is carried to the highest courts and settled, the bees will remain, as it can be proved, and our best horticulturists now admit, that grapes cannot be successfully grown without the aid of the bees in fertilizing the blossoms.

R. L. Taylor—If these are the facts, and horticulturists can be convinced that they are facts, there will be no lawsuits.

The next subject brought up was

MARKETING HONEY.

R. L. Taylor—It may not be the best way, but I send my honey to commission men.

Geo. E. Hilton—I sell my own honey; or leave it with grocers to be sold on commission.

John Rey—I have built up a good home market by scattering the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL "Leaflets," and by advertising the honey in the local papers. I give the editors some honey, and they tell how nice it is, and you ought to see the orders for honey come in! I never allow a section or package of any kind to go out that does not bear my address.

A. I. Root—We always take especial pains to keep different kinds of honey put up in all styles and sizes of packages all ready for customers. It is quite a point to be ready at a mo-

ment's notice to hand out just what a customer asks for.

Dr. Higbie—We must advertise; have a neat little sign, "Honey for Sale," to hang out.

Geo. E. Hilton—This matter of marking our sections and crates is important. I stencil each side of my crates, and also put a large display card in each crate, and on the card this is printed: "Nice clover honey from the apiary of Geo. E. Hilton, Fremont, Mich." This card the grocer can hang in some conspicuous place.

Dr. Ashley—I try to keep up the market, but the trouble is that some farmer with a few colonies brings in his honey, in poor shape perhaps, and sells for whatever the grocers will pay him, and this demoralizes the market.

A. I. Root—Buy him out.

Prof. Cook—This plan will answer when a man has a "big factory and lots of money," but every bee-keeper cannot buy all the honey that somebody is bound to give away.

Next came a few words about

HONEY AT FAIRS.

H. D. Cutting—I consider Fairs one of the greatest educational institutions we have. The Michigan State Agricultural Society has dealt very liberally with bee-keepers, but if bee-keepers expect to keep the premiums at their present figures, they must turn out better than they have lately.

Prof. Cook—When I was over in Toronto, it was astonishing to see the amount of honey that Mr. Jones sold at the Fair. One way was to cut sections of honey from corner to corner, selling each piece for 5 cents.

W. Z. Hutchinson—I should think there would be trouble from "visitor" bees.

F. H. Macpherson—We kept the honey under wire dish-covers.

A. I. Root—We sell honey at our Fair, and have no trouble with bees, but none are allowed to load up and get away. I visited all the candy, cider and lemonade stands, furnished each proprietor with a "shingle" and extracted a promise that it should be used in killing every bee that attempted to load up. The Fair ground is near our apiary, and the Fair lasted three days during a dry time, yet there was no trouble.

It is a pretty hard matter to knock Dr. Mason "off his pins," but it was very neatly done at this point, by making him an honorary member.

The committee appointed for the purpose, then made the following

REPORT ON EXHIBITS.

We beg to report as follows on the exhibits at this meeting:

Mr. M. H. Hunt showed a Clark smoker, Bingham honey-knife, very nice sliced sections, wire embedder, wired frame, division-board, metal rabbets, two styles of bee-brushes, twined coil wire, and a sample of the Hunt chaff hive.

H. D. Cutting showed the Cutting saw-arbor, very useful for bee-keepers, and of a nice size.

Mr. John Rey had on exhibit his fruit-can bee-feeders, which he claims as robber-proof; a bee-veil with isinglass front, sections with foundation fastened at both top and bottom, and sections of honey where the foundation thus fastened had been used;

nice samples of honey in glass buckets; also the Stanley extractor for four frames.

Dr. G. L. Tinker had on exhibit his beautiful four-piece sections in basswood and black walnut.

A. D. D. Wood showed sand-papered one-piece sections in basswood and white poplar; also four-piece poplar sections.

A. M. Gander exhibited honey in cases of different sizes; also bottles of the Muth description; honey in sections, and a combined frame and hive.

T. F. Bingham, of Abnoria, Mich., had the "Doctor" smoker and the Bingham honey-knife, both of which are well known.

Dr. A. B. Mason, of Wagon Works, Ohio, showed three samples of granulated honey, and a sample of the same liquified, all of which is very interesting. Also some heads of the Chapman honey-plant, just about to bloom; which is another proof of the value of the plant, showing, as this does, its hardiness.

Mr. T. F. Bingham also showed the surplus honey department of the stingless bees of Honduras.—F. H. Macpherson, A. I. Root, and Geo. E. Hilton.

Mr. A. I. Root then called attention to a

QUEEN-EXCLUDING TOP-BAR.

This was exhibited by Mr. A. M. Gander. The frame had a double top-bar, i. e., two top-bars one above the other, *a la* Demaree; and in a slot, extending the whole length of the upper top-bar, was slipped a strip of perforated zinc. The upper top-bar is wide enough to make the top-bars close-fitting.

T. F. Bingham—We have here a fine illustration of what a patent will do in the encouragement of invention. This is clearly an attempt to secure, in a different manner, the same results as Mr. Heddon does with his honey-board. There are these objections to it: To make a set of frames requires more pieces than to make an ordinary set of frames and Mr. Heddon's honey-board in the bargain; then the propolis will accumulate along the edges of the top-bar, and it entirely prevents the adoption of the "contraction method" without on immense amount of complication.

W. Z. Hutchinson—What advantages do you claim for your frame, Mr. Gander?

A. M. Gander—When I use a honey-board, and take it off, the bottom of it is covered with brace-combs, and I do not like this.

W. Z. Hutchinson—Why do you remove the honey-board?

A. M. Gander—Why, to handle the frames.

W. Z. Hutchinson—Why do you handle the frames?

A. M. Gander—In the fall I wish to take out some of the combs.

Mr. Bingham then made a few remarks on

WINTERING BEES.

He considered it important to put a rim 1½ or 2 inches wide under each hive in winter. It allows the bees to cluster naturally upon the lower edges of the combs; the dead bees and rubbish can drop out of the way, the combs are always dry and clean, and the entrance never clogged. He advised its use both out-of-doors and in the cellar. His bees are kept upon platforms. He prefers three hives upon each platform, and the platform is 2x6 feet in size, and raised from the

ground perhaps a foot. The bees are prepared for wintering by packing them in fine hay upon these platforms. The hives are moved near together, and raised a few inches in such a manner as to give them a slight slant towards the entrance. Hay is packed under them, around the sides and over the top. On the top it is 14 inches deep. Panels of boards are used, too, for keeping the hay in place, and the boards are held together by nailing on strips of hoop-iron around the corners. Of course all is served with a roof. There is a spout or bridge from each entrance to the outside. This spout is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch high, several inches wide at the back end, but tapers to one inch at the outside, where it meets an auger hole bored in the outer boards. After packing, the bees receive no more attention until it is time to make ready for the surplus. Mr. B. has been uniformly successful in wintering bees.

Mr. Root had tried closing the entrances, and also leaving them open. He favored a generous entrance, left wide open.

The convention then adjourned *sine die*.
W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

For the American Bee Journal.

Legislation for Bee-Keepers.

C. G. BEITEL.

On page 742, Dr. C. C. Miller desires the views of bee-keepers on the desirability and feasibility of obtaining certain legislation looking to the securing of bee-keepers in their locations as to territory. I presume the idea is to ask Congress for this protection. If each State was to legislate for its own bee-keepers, we Pennsylvanians could hardly consider it feasible, for to legislate for the protection of bee-keepers would be class legislation, and the courts of this State are opposed to such legislation, and while it is true that the courts do not make the laws, yet they construe them, and always most strictly against the class, and most favorable to the general public.

We have many laws that come within the above category, and the same laws may be found upon the statute book of other States, viz: mechanics' lien laws, for the protection of mechanics and material men; for laborers, to protect their wages, and many others. I merely mention these to show what I mean by class legislation. Many of these laws are fruitful sources of litigation, and to such an extent has it been carried, that it is hardly safe to file liens, except under the supervision of a good lawyer.

In addition to this, the new constitution of Pennsylvania, adopted by the people in 1873, contains a clause, in which among other things it is provided "that the General Assembly shall not pass any law granting to any corporation, association, or individual, any special or exclusive privilege or immunity;" and while this does not

prohibit the legislature to pass such laws for a class of individuals, in so many words, yet in spirit it surely does, and while we find no such prohibition in the Constitution of the United States, I doubt not that the spirit expressed in ours, would govern Congress in considering such a bill, because in principle it is antagonistic to our free institutions.

Again, when we scan closely a law such as is contemplated, we cannot fail to perceive what a source of litigation it might lead to—the question of priority of location would often be as difficult to establish as that of priority of invention, and unless Congress in enacting such a law would give jurisdiction to State courts to try these questions, they would have to be tried in the United States courts, the same as patent-right questions, which would entail enormous costs and expenses on litigants, who rather than incur them, would abandon their rights, and thus render the law nugatory.

These few hints might be greatly elaborated, but they are sufficient for me, to decide not only against the feasibility, but also against the desirability, looking at it simply from a legal standpoint.

Easton, O. Pa.

For the American Bee Journal.

The New Races of Bees.

S. SIMMINS.

With regard to the temper of these bees, I intend to confine my remarks to the character of those workers produced by imported queens only, and by so doing I hope to enable those as yet unacquainted with them to choose the good and refuse the least desirable kinds; and after obtaining the varieties recommended, I feel no hesitation in saying that the truth of my words will be fully sustained.

I would ask those who have tried only one or two queens of either kind, whether they consider it fair to run down these bees upon so slight an acquaintance, and what is really no experience at all. Are they certain that their one queen was imported? To get at facts we must start at the fountain-head, or we shall never find the truth if the adverse reports given emanate from those who do not have pure bees.

With regard to Cyprians, my own experience is completely at variance with that recorded by many. It may surprise some readers when I say that of all bees yet known, I would rather work with Cyprians than any other variety. I do not for a moment say that those who have given unfavorable reports, may not have started with a vicious lot, but I do assert that out of more than a dozen colonies headed by imported queens, I have not one which cannot be handled without smoke at any time of the day, on dull days, windy or fine days, or whether honey is coming in or not; not the least of their good qualities being that they can be shaken from

the combs cleaner and more quickly than any others, and yet while being handled very few fly into the air. They will continue to breed and store while Italians are starving, but unlike the latter they are not suitable for comb honey production, as their cap-pings lie close upon the honey, presenting a damp-looking surface. The workers are extremely beautiful and pleasing to the eye, and when properly handled, are as gentle as they are beautiful. The queens are very prolific, and will work a colony up to full strength in a remarkably short time.

That these bees are a most valuable acquisition to an apiary, no one who has thoroughly tested them can deny; but the reports as to their vindictive temper have restrained many from keeping them. I do not know whether those who speak ill of them use smoke while manipulating; if so, it explains the whole thing, as its application is a fatal error, and certain to arouse their ire. I use none, but gently turn back the quilt, wait a moment or two, and then with a quiet, firm motion do all that is required. Upon first removing the quilt a slight hissing noise of wings is heard, but this is caused more by the bees running from the light than by those coming up, and even if they boil over on top of the frames, if the operator will only proceed as advised, he will be surprised to find that not one bee has any intention of stinging, and they may be shaken off the combs like so many flies.

One writer says that upon the slightest jarring many infuriated bees will fly out and sting him; perhaps they will if smoke has been used, but without it I have divided strong colonies in several stories, and some jarring could hardly be avoided; I have carried full colonies into my manipulating house on a dull day (to prevent chill), and have cut out a score of queen-cells at a time, with no stings, and hardly a bee has flown from the combs. And let it be noted that no matter how long the frames are left uncovered, or what length of time the operator may be about what he is doing, the bees remain good-tempered and perfectly at rest, provided only as before stated, that no smoke be used.

I have given many facts, but need I give more to prove that Cyprians are coming to stay? In time to come those who now condemn them will be forced to acknowledge the merits of these extraordinary bees, or be content to fall behind in the great apicultural race of keen competition.

Mr. G. M. Doolittle has discarded Syrians because they would breed too extensively when bees are not wanted, and not well enough early in the season; also that they are very vicious. About half of my own Syrian colonies can be handled easily without smoke, while the rest are most difficult to manage; but if they were a desirable race to cultivate, there is no reason why all should not be bred from those queens which give the more gentle bees. With regard to breeding at the wrong time, I believe Mr. D. is right, though for this very reason they may and do suit other countries where

winter is not seen. Even this disposition might be modified after the lapse of two or three years, and their brood-rearing be regulated according to the state of the climate in which they may find themselves. However, they have no desirable traits other than what the more beautiful Cyprians possess, while they are not so quiet under manipulation as the latter; I have therefore decided that I have no use for them.

The Palestines are even more uncertain in temper than Syrians, while they have an unpleasant habit of biting the fingers of the operator, they also develop laying workers more persistently than any of the races yet named, and the probability is that there will be no permanent demand for them.

Carniolan bees are, without doubt, the most easily handled of all, as almost any amount of rough treatment fails to make them bad-tempered; and yet they are not surpassed by any in defending their homes against intruders of their own kind. Contrary to the statements of some, I have found that this race is quite distinct in character and appearance from the common black bee. The queens are generally dark, but bronzed on the underside of the abdomen, while many have yellow bands, and some are quite yellow; yet all produce workers of the typical sort. The latter should show no yellow bands, but upon the first segment of the abdomen is generally found a scarcely distinguishable shade of that color, and then follow several extremely broad, white bands, giving the bee a very beautiful appearance.

As regards their working capabilities, they are superior to either Italians or natives, and in building up in the spring, surpass all but the Cyprians. They are extremely active when anything is to be obtained, while in dull weather, and during winter they are particularly quiet, and bear confinement during a journey better than any bees I have known. Here we have the secret of their remarkable wintering qualities, and if this good point alone be considered, where is the apiary in your northern latitudes, or in our own uncertain climate, that can afford to do without them?

While Cyprians are more suitable for extracting purposes, Carniolans, though not quite so good honey-gatherers, are particularly adapted to the production of comb honey; while a cross between a Carniolan queen and a Cyprian drone will give an "all-purposes" bee not to be excelled by anything yet found. Just here is a fact which must convince all that Carniolans are quite distinct from blacks. In crossing the latter with yellow drones, generally only one band of yellow is shown in the worker, never more than two; but when mated with a Cyprian drone, many of the bees from a Carniolan queen, though very large, will be marked like Cyprians, others not so bright, but of better color than any Ligurian bee. A Cyprian queen mated with a Carniolan drone does

not produce a single dark bee, and all have 3 yellow bands, while the color is but a shade darker than the pure yellow variety. Each of these crosses may be handled either with or without smoke.

Carniolans are not quite so steady on the combs in handling as Cyprians, neither are they so easily shaken off, and when they are so treated a great many fly around. Though equally as good tempered, it is here that my preference comes in for working with Cyprians. I can find no other fault with Carniolans, but another good quality possessed by them must not be overlooked—I find them longer lived than any other variety, a point of even more importance than their extraordinary breeding powers—one which in connection with their perfectly restful condition under confinement, renders them particularly desirable for all cold and uncertain climates.

I am aware that some who have had but one or two queens of this kind have spoken unfavorably as to their honey-gathering qualities, but I am in a position to assert as a fact that these bees, by the side of Syrians and Ligurians, have given more bees and more honey than any. Those who have not found it so should not discard the whole race, but try again, and see what other queens will do, and then breed from the best, just as they profess to have done with Italians.

Two other good points are possessed by both Carniolans and Cyprians. They are not given to robbing; and in making up nuclei with these bees, they will almost invariably stay where placed.

In conclusion I would say that much is due to Mr. Benton, for placing before us more prominently these new varieties of bees. It would perhaps be too much to say that these bees will cause a revolution in our industry, but that the two most desirable kinds mentioned will soon be found superseding Italians in most apiaries, even where the former are now strongly opposed, I am fully persuaded, as their marked superiority must bring them to the front.

Rottingdean, England.

For the American Bee Journal.

The Honey-Producers' Association.

J. V. CALDWELL, (125-208).

The idea of an association to control the price of our honey crop has impressed me very forcibly. First, is there anything tangible or practical in the idea? I say no, most emphatically. Honey is one of the products of the farm, and as such it must be placed on the market in precisely the same manner as any other product.

I am very sorry that our product has gone down in price, as it has this season. As I am depending upon my bees for a living, I am doubly interested, but I am satisfied that the result would have been different had the season been a poor one, instead

of one of the best in my 14 years' experience. If we could all agree on a fixed price for our honey, and also agree to take no less under any circumstances, there might be some encouragement to form such an association. But there are, in my opinion, at least the two following serious objections:

1. Most bee-keepers, when their product is ready for the market, want the money for it, or its equivalent. Now, suppose the crop has been a good one, as is the case here this season, and, for instance, the price of good comb honey is placed at 20 cents per pound, and the market price is only 10 cents. What is to be done? The producer cannot hold over his honey until another year, as can the wheat and corn raiser, but he must sell. But it may be said that the price will not go to such a low figure, if it were not for the small bee-keepers, who, not making a business of bee-culture, care but little about the price they secure for their few hundred pounds.

2. What are we going to do with these farmers and small producers? They will sell, and at a low price very often, and it seems to me that we could not induce them to join any such organization as the proposed one; and, granting this to be the facts in the case, just as soon as they saw the price of honey fixed at a higher figure, they would have an inducement to produce more honey, and thus crowd an already overstocked market; thus making matters worse than they are at present.

It is my candid opinion that there is but one practical method of accomplishing the desired end, and that is for a few rich apiarists to form a "corner," and each season buy all the honey produced in the United States and Canada; but where, oh, where, is the Gould or Vanderbilt among us? If any of our fraternity can suggest a more practical plan, by all means let us have it.

Cambridge, Mass.

For the American Bee Journal.

How Bees Exercise, Hibernation, etc.

DR. G. L. TINKER.

On page 746, Mr. Demaree presents a very able article upon the above subject, and it is one upon which we certainly require more light. To make up the issue fairly and squarely, Mr. D. denies that bees ever resort to "exercise" to raise the temperature when subjected to severe cold. No subject pertaining to wintering has a greater practical bearing than this one of exercise. We need a thorough understanding of the conditions that compel bees to exercise, and which is the forerunner of all our great disasters in wintering, and of those other conditions that secure hibernation, in which all the energies of the bees are conserved in the highest degree in their long winter confinement.

I affirm that bees do exercise when subjected to low temperature, but it

is not perhaps the kind of exercise that Mr. Demaree has had in view. It is certain that they never drum with their wings or "kick up their heels," or get on a "tear," but when they wish to "warm up" to a state of activity from a state of hibernation, they simply begin a *forced respiration*—the opposing force coming from the effect of a low temperature. As they warm up the respirations are accelerated until a temperature in the cluster is reached that enables ordinary activity. No other movements are ever observable until a very rapid respiration is acquired, when they begin to move about as we always see bees in the working season—never at rest.

I have viewed the actions of bees at low temperatures a great many times, and have found that although there was the "oppressive stillness" to which Mr. D. alludes, yet the bees could be seen moving about constantly. Their short, quick respirations could also be seen. Now a continuation of this state of activity of bees subjected to severe cold is all that is necessary to develop a typical case of diarrhea. The state, moreover, in no wise differs, as above intimated, from that seen in summer time. They are simply active, and the whole colony in a condition to take food at all times. Of necessity they do eat, and, as we know from the great loss of weight of unprotected colonies, they eat largely. I have had colonies in single-walled hives to lose 30 pounds of weight in winter before any breeding to speak of took place, the bees dying off until only a pint or so were left by April 1. Unavoidably they had diarrhea, and they spring dwindled. On the contrary, I have found where bees are subjected to proper temperatures in wintering that they hibernate most of the time, consume very little food, lose few bees, and come out in the spring vigorous and healthy colonies.

Mr. Demaree makes a strong point when he says, "that bees feed regularly when closely confined in the cluster in extreme cold weather, like they do in the season of their activity, is a supposition only—it has never been proved that they do." Allusion was made to this matter in the October issue of the *Apiculturist*, and I will now further explain that intervals of several days elapse between "feeding times," when bees are hibernating. The intervals are passed in a state of profound rest that is a true hibernation (I beg the indulgence of Prof. Cook) "in the 'scientific' and ordinary meaning of the term," as Mr. Demaree lucidly remarks.

The "feeding times" last two or three hours, when they assume the hibernant state again, and are as composed as the other colonies near them. I have never seen sluggish bees partaking of food in the hive, and it seems certain that they are incapable of feeding in the torpid state. The popular notion that bees eat regularly in winter confinement is based upon the known fact that they require food. There is no other reason for the notion. It has been said that the bees

near the honey take it up and pass it along the line to the hungry ones, and that the sluggish ones on the outside of the cluster are all the while crawling into the centre to get warm! But nothing could be further from the truth. The sluggish bees remain on the outside of the cluster until the colony warms up to feed, and if they are too far away from the edge of the cluster to get warmed up, they invariably die. Each bee helps itself to food, and none is passed from one to the other that I have been able to detect. Yet it is quite possible that they do feed each other as they ordinarily do when in the active state; but nothing can be more certain than that they do not eat at all during the intervals of torpidity.

Hibernating bees assume a compact cluster, and to the unaided eye appear the same as a cluster that has starved to death, such is the profound inactivity. Single bees can be seen in the same position for 24 hours at a time, and no doubt for days together. If we take out a comb on which the bees are clustered, we find them sticking together so closely and firmly that it is with fears that their limbs will be torn asunder in the operation. At first they have little movement, although aware of the disturbance, and appear benumbed and act like other hibernating insects as they begin to succumb to the effects of cold. Isolated bees become helpless, but the united cluster is capable of warming up and becoming active very soon. The question, therefore, arises, if all hibernating insects would congregate in clusters as do bees on non-conducting surfaces like the wax of honey-comb, would they not act much the same as bees under like circumstances?

Those who assume "to know" that bees never hibernate, must admit that their actions are very peculiar when subjected to cold; that no warm-blooded creature in existence in the state of "quietude" ceases all perceptible respiration and movement for days together. I therefore assert that the terms "quietude," "reduced activity," "quiescence," etc., are quite inadequate to express the state that bees enter in winter confinement under proper conditions. It seems to me that the term "hibernation" expresses the state exactly, and is the proper one to use, although the hibernation of bees is a limited one of periods, probably not exceeding ten or twelve days at a time.

New Philadelphia, O.

For the American Bee Journal.

Cedar Valley, Iowa, Convention.

The Cedar Valley Bee-Keepers' Association met at Vinton, Iowa, on Dec. 7, 1886, at 1:30 p.m. President C. P. Hunt in the chair. Hon. D. E. Vorris, Mayor of Vinton, gave the address of welcome, which was responded to by President Hunt, and the Mayor made an honorary member.

The report of the Secretary was read and approved, and after the rou-

tine of business, the question-box was opened, some of the questions being answered as follows:

Which is the most practicable, cheapest and safest plan of wintering bees in this latitude? D. W. Thayer winters his bees in a cave, stoned up and covered with earth. It has double doors, ventilation pipe running in at the bottom, and a pipe running out at the top. It was generally thought that wintering in the cellar was better than wintering on the summer stands. About 45° was considered the best temperature.

Are sound vegetables in the cellar a detriment to bees? All thought it best not to have any kind of vegetables in a cellar where bees are kept.

What is the best method of getting the most comb honey, and the least increase? Keep queen-cells cut out and give plenty of room to work.

What are the wintering qualities of honey-dew? It was thought that it is not fit to winter bees on, although Mr. Robt. Quinn had wintered his bees on honey-dew with success, but prefers good clover honey.

To move bees a distance of seven miles, when would be the best time? In the spring, about May 1, if the weather is nice.

Which is the better place for an apiary, a slope to the south with artificial shade, or an orchard sloping to the north? The south slope was preferred.

After some discussion on marketing honey, A. J. Norris, H. O. McElhany and R. Quinn were appointed a committee to report next day on the desirability of forming an association for marketing honey and obtaining supplies.

Adjourned to 9 a.m.

The President called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The committee reported in favor of forming an association. The report as well as the following were adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of five be elected, whose duty it shall be at their earliest convenience to draft constitution and by-laws, and perfect the organization of "The Cedar Valley Bee-Keepers' Produce and Supply Union," and submit, by correspondence, the result of their deliberation. They shall also be authorized to incorporate, if they think best, to secure members, elect officers and an agent, and to call a meeting of the members at such a time as they deem necessary for the best interest of all.

The following were elected as the committee: C. P. Hunt, of Waterloo; A. J. Norris, of Cedar Falls; H. E. Hubbard, of La Porte City; G. W. Harbin, of Waterloo, and Henry Miller, of Vinton; the committee to meet at Waterloo, on Dec. 28, 1886, and select two more to act on the committee.

All persons interested in forming this association are requested to correspond with the Secretary of the association, who will forward all necessary information.

H. E. HUBBARD, Sec.
La Porte City, © Iowa.

Local Convention Directory.1887. *Time and place of Meeting.*

- Jan. 8.—Hardin County, at Eldora, Iowa.
J. W. Buchanan, Sec., Eldora, Iowa.
- Jan. 11-13.—N. Y. State, E. N. Y., &c., at Albany, N. Y.
Jno. Aspinwall, Sec., Barrytown, N. Y.
- Jan. 12.—Cortland Union, at Cortland, N. Y.
D. F. Shattuck, Sec., Homer, N. Y.
- Jan. 12.—Nebraska State, at Lincoln, Nebr.
H. N. Patterson, Sec., Humboldt, Nebr.
- Jan. 13.—Vermont, at Burlington, Vt.
R. H. Holmes, Sec., Shoreham, Vt.
- Jan. 13.—Sheboygan County, at Hingham, Wis.
Mattie B. Thomas, Sec., Sheboygan Falls, Wis.
- Jan. 18.—N. W. Ills. & S. W. Wis., at Rockford, Ills.
J. Stewart, Sec., Rock City, Ills.
- Jan. 19, 20.—N. E. Ohio, N. Pa., &c., at Andover, O.
M. E. Mason, Sec., Andover, O.

☞ In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of time and place of future meetings.—ED.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR LETTER BOX

Cold Wave in New York.—Ira Barber, De Kalb Junction, 3 N. Y., on Dec. 6, 1886, writes:

A cold wave is hovering over this locality, and for the past four days the mercury has been from 1° to 24° below zero, and still holds its grip. In my bee-cellar the temperature was at 46° above zero yesterday, while outside it was at 22° below zero. I would much prefer to have the temperature 10° higher in a cellar as damp as mine is, at this stage of winter. Our honey crop was a perfect failure, and the number of colonies of bees in northern New York will be greatly reduced for another season.

Good Season for Bees.—F. A. Snell, Milledgeville, 10 Ills., on Dec. 7, 1886, says:

The past season has been a good one here. I commenced on June 1 with 85 colonies; I now have 140 all in winter quarters, and in good condition. My surplus honey crop was 5,000 pounds of comb honey and 8,000 pounds of extracted.

Winter Convention in Chicago.—James Heddon, Dowagiac, 9 Mich., writes:

I have read Mr. Baldrige's article discussing the feasibility of holding an American Bee-Keepers' Convention in Chicago, for the purpose of organizing and taking measures for protection against the ruinously and needless steady decline in prices for honey. It seems to me that an organization of the right kind may, as Mr. Baldrige says, effect much in the direction of our interests and rights. Mr. Baldrige has well said many things that I have often thought. Looking to our mutual rights and interests as honey producers, I am in favor of such a convention, and know of no better time

to hold it than this winter; and if we could hold it as soon as New Years, could we not have the benefit of half fare over nearly all the railroads going into Chicago? I believe a convention of this kind will benefit us more than all other conventions we have held for years. All American bee-keepers, whether present or not, will be in full sympathy with us. Health permitting, I will promise to waive all other business and attend; bearing my share of the expenses, and doing my part of the good work.

Good Report.—J. V. Caldwell, (125-208), Cambridge, 10 Ills., on Dec. 8, 1886, gives the following report for 1886:

On May 1, 1886, I had 125 colonies of bees in fair condition. They increased by natural swarming to 208 colonies, and gave me 13,000 pounds of comb honey, all in one and two pound sections.

Hardin, Co., Iowa, Convention.—J. W. Buchanan, Eldora, 10 Iowa, Secretary of the Convention, writes:

The bee-keepers of Hardin county, Iowa, met in Eldora, on Monday, Dec. 6, 1886, and organized the "Hardin County Bee-Keepers' Association," with Mr. John Ely, President. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 8, 1887, at Eldora. All interested in bee-keeping are cordially invited to attend.

Managing the Sale of Honey.—Henry W. Haag, Pettit, 10 Ind., on Dec. 6, 1886, writes:

The season this year has gone and the winter has come, and it was a good honey season in this locality. I have 24 colonies in winter quarters, which are in fine condition. I winter my bees in a cellar, and I was very successful last winter, and I hope to be the same the coming winter. I have been thinking of the same points as mentioned by Mr. L. N. Tongue, on page 762. There ought to be something done to protect bee-men that make bee-keeping a specialty, as there are those in this part of the State that sell their honey for little or nothing, and when we bring our honey to market, the grocer says that he can buy all the honey he wants for from 9 to 10 cents per pound; but I say that the times will become harder before I will sell for such prices. I think it would be a good plan for the honey-producer to make the price instead of the grocer doing it. Now let us stick together and see how it will work.

Non-Swarming Hives—Disturbing Bees.—M. M. Baldrige, St. Charles, 3 Ills., writes:

Some one on page 776 has found a "non-swarming hive," that, if managed for surplus, as all good bee-keepers should manage, will produce, each season, from "200 to 300 pounds of

honey, and without any increase." I suppose we could be sure of that much honey by using that hive, whether the flowers yield honey or not. This would be better, perhaps, than what Mrs. Cotton guarantees! What a pity it is that I did not have such a hive in 1880, when I did not get enough surplus honey from nearly 200 colonies to give me and my family one good square meal! The foregoing statement seems to be in harmony with another, in the same article, which reads thus: "The brood-chamber should never be disturbed after the season for honey-gathering has commenced, if bees are expected to gather a large surplus." Now, my experience taught me many years ago, and still teaches me that, if you wish to secure a large yield of surplus honey, a proper and frequent disturbance of the brood-chamber will secure just that result—provided, of course, there is plenty of honey in the flowers, etc.

Opposed to Legislation for Bee-Men.—R. Gammon, Rockton, 3 Ills., writes:

In reply to Dr. Miller's request about legislation for bee-keepers, I will say that I think we have seen too much class legislation in the last 25 years, in favor of banks and railroads, and I for one would not want to see it for bee-keepers; as it seems to me it interferes with our free government.

The Market Reports.—O. B. Barrows, Marshalltown, 10 Iowa, says:

The editor asks "all the rest of his readers" to tell what they think about Mr. Baldrige's proposition to exclude the market reports from the bee-papers. If two editions were published to accommodate both factions, I think I had rather have the one containing the market reports.

Moisture in Hives.—John Rey, East Saginaw, 10 Mich., on Dec. 10, 1886, says:

My bees are having a fine flight today; the weather is fine, just right for bees. There is no diarrhea among them yet. They are in a healthy condition, and I notice that the bees of those hives that have some water or moisture running from them, carry it out and spit it out in a fine spray, and it is nothing but clear water. I think that is the way bees get rid of the water or moisture in the hives when they get a chance to fly.

Results of the Season.—Mexico Sperry, La Harpe, 10 Ills., on Dec. 2, 1886, says:

I have been taking the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for three years, to which I attribute most of my success. Last winter, out of 23 colonies, I did not lose one. I took 6 more on shares, and I have had 22 swarms and sold 15 colonies, and I now have 51 colonies left for winter. I prepare my bees for winter as do Messrs. Dadant &

Son. I have taken 1,900 pounds of extracted honey, and about 1,800 pounds of comb honey in two-pound sections. I am very well satisfied with the honey crop this year, but I had to sell it cheap—extracted honey for from 5 to 7 cents per pound, and comb honey for from 10 to 15 cents per pound—on account of a neighbor bee-keeper who sold his honey for 5 to 10 cents per pound. I prepare my bees in October for winter, and I find it the best. I think that every bee-keeper ought to take the BEE JOURNAL. I would not do without the BEE JOURNAL for anything.

Good Fall for Honey.—E. W. Powers, Palmyra, & Tenn., on Dec. 4, 1886, writes:

I have 28 colonies of bees, all of which are in good condition for winter, with from 25 to 50 pounds of honey each. This has been the best fall for honey that we have had for 2 or 3 years. This locality is a very good one for an apiary I think, as we have a few of the many resources of honey, which consists of white clover, buckwheat, linden and poplar; the last yielding the greatest quantity, but continues only about twenty days. My bees work on buckwheat but very little; why it is I do not know, unless they find something better.

A Little Tennessean's Report.—Master Charlie H. Austin, of Johnson City, & Tenn., on Nov. 30, 1886, wrote us the following:

I thought that I would write to you (as my papa is taking the BEE JOURNAL, and has not time to write for it), and tell you how our little Italians are getting along in Tennessee. We have 15 colonies; papa does the work, and I do the smoking. Our bees are in good condition for winter. We sold all of our spring honey in one-pound sections for 20 cents a pound. I am a little boy just 10 years old.

Reports of the Market.—J. O. Shearman, New Richmond, & Mich., on Dec. 12, 1886, says:

On page 771 the editor asks all to answer the question about excluding the market reports of commission men. They are generally the first thing that I read; I would sooner exclude any other part of the paper. Those reports benefit the BEE JOURNAL as much as they do the commission men.

Keeping up the Price of Honey.—E. T. Flanagan, Belleville, & Ill., says:

I have talked to several bee-keepers in regard to Mr. Baldrige's article on page 774, and all say that he has struck the key-note. We must organize, we must put up and keep up the price of honey or quit the business. All agree that a convention at Chicago, very soon, would be a proper step in the right direction; and all were unanimous in regard to the commission men in large cities.

Do not allow them the columns of the bee-papers, even if they pay for their space as advertisers, as they have greatly injured the bee-business. Appoint some one in every centre to buy up the honey of the small bee-keepers that spoil the trade. I, for one, believe that a call for a convention would be responded to from all over the United States. But I may be too sanguine.

Securing Lower Freight Rates.—Henry L. Rouse, Ionia, & Iowa, writes:

As I wish to join the Bee-Keepers' Union I send the \$1.25. I am of the opinion that if bee-keepers would organize it would benefit them not only in holding the price of honey, but also in securing lower rates of freight. When it costs 50 cents per 100 pounds to ship honey from Iowa to Chicago, and only 80 cents per 100 pounds to ship from San Francisco, Calif., to Philadelphia, Pa., something is wrong somewhere. We (the bee-keepers) should endeavor to establish a lower rate of freight by some means or other. I should like to see the matter agitated a little anyway.

Labeling Honey, etc.—Charlie W. Bradish, Glendale, & N. Y., on Dec. 7, 1886, says:

At this date, when the mercury is below zero, my 140 colonies of bees are packed in the cellar in good condition. The past one has been a good season for honey, but not for increase. I have sold over 4,000 pounds of honey in this county, and I can sell all I have left at 10 cents per pound for extracted, and 12½ cents per pound for comb honey. I label my honey, and I find that it pays to do so.

Convention Notices.

The next annual convention of the Cortland Union Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Union Hall, at Cortland, N. Y., on Jan. 12, 1887. D. F. SHATTUCK, Sec.

The eleventh annual meeting of the N. W. Ills. & S. W. Wis. Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in the Grand Army Hall in Rockford, Ills., on the third Tuesday in January, 1887. There will be a two days' session. J. STEWART, Sec.

The Northeastern Ohio, Northern Pa. and Western New York Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its 8th annual convention in Chapman's Opera House, at Andover, O., on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 19 and 20, 1887. First-class hotel accommodations are offered at \$1 per day to those attending the convention. A general invitation is extended to all. M. E. MASON, Sec.

The New York State, the Eastern New York and the New Jersey & Eastern Bee-Keepers' Associations will hold their great united convention at Albany, N. Y., on Jan. 11, 12 and 13, 1886. This convention will be one of the largest, if not the largest, ever held anywhere in this country, and it behooves every bee-keeper to attend. A grand exhibit of apianian fixtures is promised. GEO. H. KNICKERBOCKER, Sec. N. Y. State. JOHN ASPINWALL, Sec. Eastern N. Y. F. E. JOHNSON, Sec. N. J. & Eastern.

The next annual meeting of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1887, and continuing for 3 days. E. Kretschmer, of Coburg, Iowa, will deliver an address on Modern Apiculture. E. M. Hayhurst, of Kansas City, and many others from abroad are expected. Members can return on one-third fare over the B. & M. U. P. and M. P. lines, by securing a certificate of payment of fare to Lincoln, from the agent of their station. In order to secure the reduced rates on return trip members holding such certificates must present them to the Secretary of the Bee-Keepers' Association for endorsement. H. N. PATTERSON, Sec.

Honey and Beeswax Market.

The following are our very latest quotations for honey and beeswax:

CHICAGO.

HONEY.—Market is well supplied with all the grades, and the demand is light. Prices are nominal at 11½¢ for white in 1-lb. sections. Fancy white in scant pound sections, 13¢. Very little extracted is being sold, and prices range from 4¢ to 7¢. BEESWAX.—22¢. R. A. BURNETT, 161 South Water St. Dec. 8.

NEW YORK.

HONEY.—In consequence of a large stock of comb honey on this market, fancy prices cannot be maintained. Fancy white honey in paper boxes, or glassed, are in better favor here than the unglazed honey, hence the difference in the price. We quote present prices as follows: Fancy white in 1-lb. paper boxes, or glassed, 13¢; same unglazed, 12¢, and in 2-lb. glassed sections, 10½¢; off grades 1 to 2 cts. per lb. less. Calif. comb, 9½¢; fancy buckwheat 1-lb., 8½¢; 2-lb., 7½¢; 4-lb., 6½¢. Extracted white clover, none in the market. Calif. ext'd, 60-lb. cans, 5¢; buckwheat, in kegs and barrels, 4¢50. BEESWAX.—21¢23¢.

MCCAUL & HILDRETH BROS., 34 Hudson St. Dec. 7.

BOSTON.

HONEY.—The demand has improved. We are selling one-pound packages of white clover honey at 14½¢; 2-pounds at 13½¢. Extracted, 6¢7¢. BEESWAX.—25 cts. per lb. Dec. 7. BLAKE & RIPLEY, 57 Chatham Street.

DETROIT.

HONEY.—The market is a trifle more active. Best white comb honey in 1-lb. sections, 11½¢12½¢. Buckwheat, 10¢. Extracted, 7¢9¢. BEESWAX.—23¢. M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Mich. Dec. 13.

CINCINNATI.

HONEY.—There is a lively demand for table honey in square glass jars, and the demand for nice comb honey is very good. Demand from manufacturers is slow for dark grades of extracted honey. The ranging prices for extracted is 3¢7¢, a lb. Nice comb brings 12½¢15¢ per lb. in a jobbing way. BEESWAX.—Home demand is good. We pay 20¢23¢ per lb. Nov. 10. C. F. MUTH & SON, Freeman & Central Av.

CLEVELAND.

HONEY.—The market is not very active and prices a little lower. Choice 1-lb. sections of best white sell at 13½¢14¢; second grade 1-lb., 10½¢12¢; choice white 2-lbs., 11½¢12¢. Extracted, slow at 6¢. BEESWAX.—Scarce at 25¢. Nov. 17. A. C. KENDEL, 115 Ontario Street.

MILWAUKEE.

HONEY.—The demand for honey is only moderate and the supply ample, of very fine quality and extra good order. We quote choice 1-lb. sections of white at 12½¢13¢; 2-lb., 11½¢12¢; dark not wanted. Extracted, white, in barrels, half-barrels and in kegs, 6¢50¢; in tin packages, 6¢7¢; dark, in barrels and ¼-barrels, 5¢60¢. BEESWAX.—Nominal at 25¢. Dec. 13. A. V. BISHOP, 142 W. Water St.

SAN FRANCISCO.

HONEY.—The market has been rather duller the last week, but prices are well maintained, particularly for choice white extracted and choice white comb honey, as both kinds are not freely offered. We quote: 3½¢4½¢ for extracted, and 9½¢12¢ for comb; with easier sales for the best grades, than for the darker honey, as none seem to be able to use the dark just now. BEESWAX.—Dull at 19¢22¢. Dec. 11. SCHACHT & LEMCKE, 122-124 Davis St.

HONEY.—Trade is quiet. Extra white comb 11¢; amber, 7½¢10¢. Extracted, white, 4¢50¢; amber, 3½¢39¢. BEESWAX.—20¢23¢.

Oct. 18. O. B. SMITH & CO., 423 Front Street.

ST. LOUIS.

HONEY.—Choice comb, 11½¢12½¢; latter price is for choice white clover. Strained, in barrels, 3½¢4¢. Extra fancy of bright color and in No. 1 packages, ¼ advance on above prices. Extracted in barrels, 4¢50¢; in cans 6¢7¢. Market dull. BEESWAX.—Dull at 20¢ for prime. Nov. 17. D. G. TUTT & CO., Commercial St.

KANSAS CITY.

HONEY.—Demand is good for all grades, and receipts have been very large of comb and extracted. Home bee-men have kept out of the market until this month; having glassed every lb. section on both sides they are reducing prices, selling 60 lbs. of glass with 100 lbs. of honey, making our market lower. There crop is about 70,000 pounds. We quote: White clover 1-lb., 12½¢13¢; 2-lb., 11¢; ¼-lb., 13¢14¢; dark 1-lb., 10¢; 2-lb., 8¢9¢; California 2-lb., 9¢11¢. Extracted white clover, 6¢; dark, 4¢50¢; white sage Calif., 5¢; amber, 5¢. BEESWAX.—22¢. Nov. 20. CLEMONS, CLOON & CO., cor. 4th & Walnut.



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Special Notices.

To Correspondents.—It would save us much trouble, if all would be particular to give their P. O. address and name, when writing to this office. We have several letters (some inclosing money) that have no name; many others having no Post-Office, County or State. Also, if you live near one post-office and get your mail at another, be sure to give the address we have on our list.

When Renewing your subscription please try to get your neighbor who keeps bees to join with you in taking the BEE JOURNAL. It is now so cheap that no one can afford to do without it. We will present a **Binder** for the BEE JOURNAL to any one sending us three subscriptions—with \$3.00—direct to this office. It will pay any one to devote a few hours, to get subscribers.

The Report of the Indianapolis Convention is now published in pamphlet form, uniform with that of last year. It will be sent postpaid for 25 cents to any address.

We have also bound it up with last year's, together with the History of the Society; this we will mail for 40 cents. Or if you send us one new subscriber (with one dollar) besides your own renewal, we will present you with a copy by mail.

Money Orders can now be obtained at the Post Offices at reduced rates. Five dollars and under costs now only 5 cents. As these are absolutely safe, it will pay to get them instead of the Postal Notes which are payable to any one who presents them, and are in no way safe.

Reader, do you not just now think of one bee-keeper who does not take the Weekly BEE JOURNAL, and who should do so? Perhaps a word or two from you will induce him to do so. Will you not kindly oblige us by getting his subscription to send on with your own renewal for next year? When you do so, please select any 25 cent book in our list, and we will send it to you post-paid, to pay for your trouble. We are aiming to get 5,000 new subscribers for 1887, —will you not assist us to obtain them?

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We supply the **American Bee Journal** one year, and any of the following publications, at the prices quoted in the last column of figures. The first column gives the regular price of both. All postage prepaid.

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The Western World Guide and Hand-Book of Useful Information, contains the greatest amount of useful information ever put together in such a cheap form. The printing, paper, and binding are excellent, and the book is well worth a dollar. To any one sending us two new subscribers besides his own, with \$3.00, for one year, we will present a copy of this valuable book.

New Subscribers are coming in rapidly—for this our thanks are tendered to the friends of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, who are exerting their influence in its behalf. We should thribble our list at the present low rate of one dollar a year. We hope every one of our present subscribers will send at least one additional subscriber with the renewal for 1887.

We refer our Subscribers to our offers of premiums and net club rates for new subscribers, and if they will send us one or more subscriptions from among their neighbors who are interested in bees, they will get the premiums or Cash reductions as they may indicate—to pay for their trouble; and at the same time they will be enhancing the usefulness of the JOURNAL and contributing toward its prosperity.

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More Premiums.—Mr. L. J. Diehl, of Butler, Ind., offers a colony of Italian bees as a present to the person sending to this office the largest club of subscribers for 1887. The subscriptions may be sent in at any time before the first of May at our regular club rates, and additions made as desired, but it must be stated that you are working for that premium, so that we can keep account of the subscriptions.

As a premium to the second largest club we will send my mail, postpaid, a copy of the "Farm Account Book," worth \$3. The postage is 20 cents.

As there is Another firm in Chicago by the name of "Newman & Son," we wish our correspondents would write "American Bee Journal" on the envelope when writing to this office. Several letters of ours have already gone to the other firm (a commission house), causing vexatious delay and trouble.

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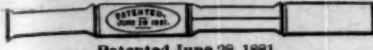
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